

DNA on bloody clothes matches missing US diplomat



By **DAVID McFADDEN**,
Associated Press Writer

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico – The weeklong search for an American diplomat has taken a grim turn as investigators on the Dutch island of Curacao said DNA from bloody clothing strewn along a popular beach matched that of missing man.

Police and prosecutors in this palm-fringed corner of the Caribbean said forensic scientists have confirmed that blood-spattered clothes found on Baya Beach “definitely” belonged to James Hogan, a 49-year-old U.S. vice consul who vanished a week ago. Divers also found his cell phone in the sea.

On Friday, authorities used sniffer dogs to search rocky coastal areas and combed the Caribbean floor with a sonar-equipped robotic device for traces of Hogan. The Curacao prosecutor’s office said the Royal Dutch Navy and the U.S. Navy were assisting.

Investigators on the island of 137,000 inhabitants are still trying to trace where Hogan went after leaving his home to go for a walk on the night of Sept. 24.

He and his wife live in Toni Kunchi, a quiet district outside the capital, Willemstad, that is home to wealthy business owners and diplomats.

U.S. State Department records show that Hogan, who arrived in the southern Caribbean

island in August 2008 for a two-year assignment, had a legal residence in Florida, but no city or town is listed.

He completed junior foreign service officer training in 2005 and spent two years as a consular officer in Gabarone, Botswana.

State Department spokesman Ian Kelly said at a news briefing Friday in Washington that the agency is “very concerned about the welfare of Mr. Hogan.”

“This is obviously upsetting news; it’s not conclusive news. But we will continue to stay in close touch with the Netherlands forensic service and with the Curacao police,” Kelly said.

Hogan’s responsibility includes consular duties for the nearby Dutch island of Aruba, where Alabama teenager Natalee Holloway vanished in May 2005 during a high school graduation trip. Holloway was last seen leaving a bar in the Aruban capital. No trace of her has been found despite extensive searches involving Aruban soldiers, FBI agents and even Dutch F-16 jets with special equipment.

Some residents in Curacao, a tiny island where the U.S. keeps military planes and personnel, said they were concerned that Hogan’s disappearance might put a dark cloud over its vital tourism industry.

“I don’t know if it will have a huge impact, but this is definitely not a good thing, obviously,” said Angela Vergouwen, a 23-year-old waitress and bartender at the Grand Cafe De Heeren. “Everyone is talking about it.”

Curacao, the headquarters of the Netherlands Antilles government, lies just 30 miles off the coast of Venezuela and it is sometimes used as a jumping-off point for drug traffickers. □

Nicole Hoevertsz meets U.S President Barack Obama



Secretary to Aruba’s Council of Ministers Nicole Hoevertsz, a 1984 Olympian in synchronized swimming, said she was honored to meet both President Obama and his wife Michelle, whom she gave an Aruba pin for goodwill.

COPENHAGEN — As Michelle Obama walked through the lobby of the International Olympic Committee’s hotel Wednesday, she shook hands and exchanged greetings.

The first lady’s on-the-ground campaigning for Chicago in advance of Friday’s IOC vote on the 2016 Summer Games host had begun.

When Obama reached IOC member Nicole Hoevertsz, she gave her a thumbs-up sign and a hug. Hoevertsz said later that Obama knew Hoevertsz had just been selected to a key government position in Aruba.

There are 73 nationalities represented in the International Olympic Committee. Of the 106 members 47 are Europeans, 22 Asians, 18 Americans, 15 Africans and 4 from Oceania. Following is a list of the members of the International Olympic Committee according to their nationalities:

ITALY: Franco Carraro (1982), Mario Pescante (1994), Ottavio Cincuenta

(1996), Manuela Di Centa (1999), Francesco Ricci Bitti (2006) **SUIZA:** Denis Oswald (1991), René Fasel (1995), Joseph Blatter (1999), Gian-Franco Kasper (2000), Patrick Baumann (2007)

RUSIA: Vitaly Smirnov (1971), Shamil Tarpishev (1994), Alexander Popov (2008)

AUSTRALIA: Kevan Gosper (1977), Phil Coles (1982), John Coates (2001)

GREAT BRITAIN: Ana de Inglaterra (1988), Craig Reedie (1994), Phil Craven (2003)

Continued on Next Page



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Nicole Hoevertsz meets First Lady Michelle Obama



Continued from Front Page
GERMANY: Walter Troeger (1989), Thomas Bach (1991), Claudia Bokel (2008)
SUECIA: Arne Ljunqvist (1994), Gunilla Lindberg (1996), Pernilla Wiberg (2002)

BRAZIL: Joao Havelange (1963), Carlos Arhur Nuzman (2000)

FINLAND: Peter Tallberg (1976), Saku Koivu (2006)
CANADÁ: Richard Pound (1978), Rebecca Scott (2006)

CHINA: Zhenliang He (1981), Zaiqing Yu (2000)
JAPÓN: Chiharu Igaya (1982), Schun-ichiro Okano (1990)

HUNGARY: Pál Schmitt (1983), Tamás Aján (2000)

UNITED STATES: Anita

DeFrantz (1986), James Easton (1994)
HOLANDA: Anton Geesink (1987), Guillermo de Orange (1998)

MÉXICO: Mario Vázquez Raña (1991), Olegario Vázquez Raña (1995)

UCRANIA: Valery Borzov (1994), Sergey Bubka (2008)
FRANCIA: Jean-Claude Killy (1995), Guy Drut (1996)

CUBA: Reynaldo González (1995), Yumilka Ruiz (2008)

SOUTH COREA: Kun Hee Lee (1996) (suspendido), Dae Sung Moon (2008)

EGYPT: Mounir Sabet (1998), Rania Elwani (2004)
MARRUECOS: Nawal El Moutawakel (1998), Hicham El Guerrouj (2004)



TÚNES: Mohamed Mzali (1965)

PERÚ: Iván Dibós (1982)
LIECHTENSTEIN: Nora de Liechtenstein (1984)

FILIPINES: Francisco Elizalde (1985)

MÓNACO: Alberto de Mónaco (1985)

GREECE: Lambis Nikolau (1986)

TAIWÁN: Ching-Kuo Wu (1988)

GUATEMALA: Willi Kaltschmitt (1988)

UGANDA: Francis Nyangweso (1988)

PORTUGAL: Fernando Lima Bello (1989)

PUERTO RICO: Richard Carrion (1990)

TAILAND: Nat Indrapana (1990)

BELGIUM: Jacques Rogge (1991)
KUWAIT: Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah (1992)
NORUEGA: Gerhard Heiberg (1994)
BARBADOS: Austin Sealy (1994)

FIJI: Robin Mitchell (1994)

GUINEA: Alpha Ibrahim Diallo (1994)

ISRAEL: Alex Gilady (1994)
SUDÁFRICA: Sam Ramsamy (1995)

CROATIA: Antun Vrdoljak (1995)
IRLANDA: Patrick Hickey (1995)

LEBANON: Toni Khoury (1995)

PAKISTÁN: Shahid Ali (1996)

NORTH COREA: Ung Chang (1996)

URUGUAY: Julio César Maglione (1996)

POLONIA: Irena Szewinska (1998)



LUXEMBURG: Gran Duque de Luxemburgo (1998)

SAUDI ARABIA: Nawaf Faisal Fahd Abdulaziz (2002)

PANAMÁ: Melitón Sánchez (1998)

ZAMBIA: Patrick Chamunda (2002)

AUSTRIA: Leo Wallner (1998)

QATAR: Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani (2002)

SINGAPUR: Ser Minag Ng (1998)

NAMIBIA: Frank Fredericks (2004)

SYRIA: Samih Moudallal (1998)

CZECH REPUBLIC: Jan Zelezny

SENEGAL: Lamine Diack (1999)

MALASIA: Tunku Imran (2006)

IVORY COAST: Lassana Palenfo (2000)

ARUBA: Nicole Hoevertsz (2006)

KENIA: Kip Keino (2000)

GAMBIA: Béatrice Allen (2006)

HONG KONG: Timothy Tsung Ting Fok (2001)

COLOMBIA: Andrés Botero (2007)

INDIA: Randhir Singh (2001)

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Haya Bint Al Hussein (2007)

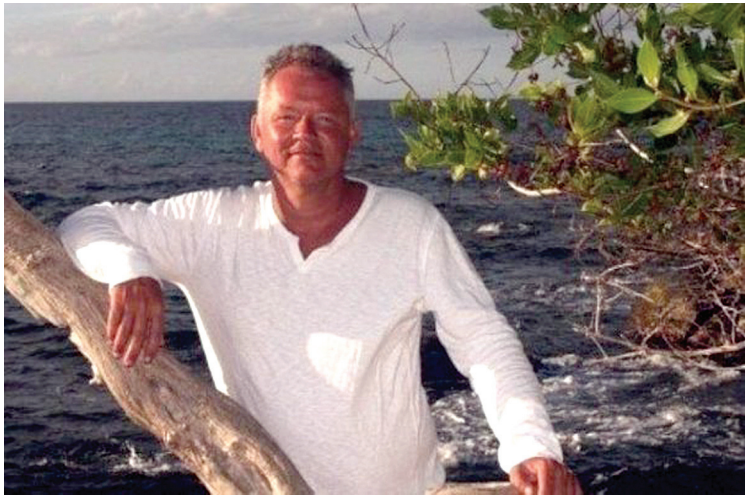
CAMEROON: Issa Hayatou (2001)

INDONESIA: Rita Subowo (2007)
TURQUÍA: Ugur Erdener (2008). □

SPAIN: Juan Antonio Samaranch jr (2001)



Ruud Steenhuisen introduced at Mr. Jazz



Oranjestad - Starting October 1, 2009 Mr. Jazz has a new Management Consultant, Ruud Steenhuisen of Stone Era Entertainment, better known in Aruba as the singer Rudi Stone, has been assigned by Dan Oduber as Management Consultant for a period up to June 2010 to grow the business in Aruba and eventually build it internationally. Born and raised in Aruba Ruud has an extensive career abroad in marketing and management and in recent years in the

entertainment industry. He was Managing Director of PolyGram Music in Portugal, then became CEO of the world famous figure skating show Holiday on Ice from 2001 to 2006, and was then CEO of Hommerson casinos in Holland. Ruud Steenhuisen says "it was always my dream to return home to Aruba and run my own restaurant. Working on Mr. Jazz combines my passion for music and especially Jazz together with my dream of running

my own restaurant. This dream is now coming true".

Ruud Steenhuisen is the son of two prominent Arubans, Rhoda Figerio, who was an opera singer in Aruba and who was the piano and vocal teacher of many of Aruba's artists, and Han Steenhuisen, founder and General Manager of Antiliaanse Handel Mij (today Kooyman). Ruud had a musical career during his youth in Aruba and won various song festivals in the 60's and 70's. He went to the USA to get his University degree. The main new activities that Ruud will be concentrating on are as follows:

1. Improve the service of Mr. Jazz to be amongst the top in Aruba.
2. Adapt the menu to focus on the Jazzy origins of Mr. Jazz, which will include some more New Orleans type dishes, Chicago Style

Steaks and some great Cuban and Aruban dishes. 3. Ensure that the live entertainment program is of high quality and fits the name Mr. Jazz, which includes special guests from the top Aruban and international artists. 4. Noche de Romance – Romance Night: Every Wednesday will be a special evening for Honeymooners, couple celebrating their love. All couples will receive a free glass of champagne and a beautiful Rose. Ruud Steenhuisen himself will perform together the house band the best romantic Boleros like those performed by Luis Miguel, Armando Manzanero and Julio Iglesias and Ballads by Frank Sinatra and many more. For local residents

the price of dinner will be in AWG instead of US\$. 5. Mr. Jazz Halloween Party (Oct. 31): Claudius Phillips and Oreo will perform at a special Halloween celebration together with the Oreo Carnaval Parade Group. The entrance will be AWG 25,00 and we invite all guests to wear their Halloween costumes. There will be prizes for the best costume.

Customers will definitely notice the impulse that Ruud Steenhuisen will give. His years of experience internationally in the entertainment industry and marketing will make Mr. Jazz the prime location for live entertainment and great cuisine in Aruba, and soon internationally. □



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Bar, which now sports a fluffy, hip look, she is now taking on the restaurant roof. No fear for patrons, because the restaurant is open for business as usual. It's only when you look up at the stars above that you notice the difference! □



Good News

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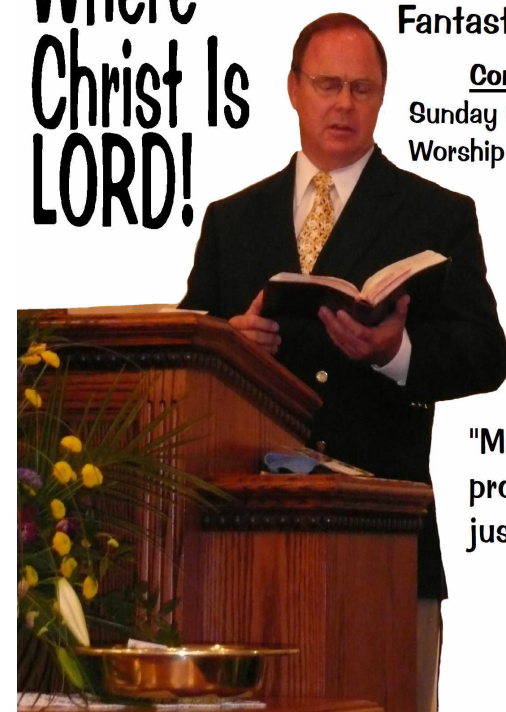
Temporarily Meeting At
Fantastic Gardens

Come This Sunday

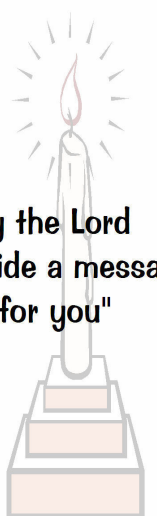
Sunday School 10:00 Am

Worship Service 11:00 Am

Where
Christ Is
LORD!



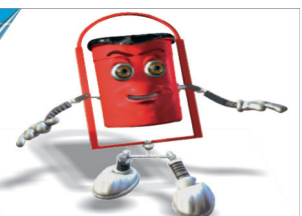
"May the Lord
provide a message
just for you"



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Team St Maarten brings home country status

AIRPORT--After nine years of tireless and relentless work, Team St. Maarten brought home a firm, irrevocable date for country status: October 10, 2010. Leader of Government Constitutional Affairs Commissioner William Marlin commended the team – in particular the advisors – who have poured countless hours into the struggle to break from the Netherlands Antilles and become a country within the

Dutch Kingdom. The date 10-10-10 was signed off on by the Dutch Government, Central Government and Island Governments of St. Maarten and Curaçao last Wednesday night in the World Trade Center in Curaçao. The Antilles of five islands will cease to exist on this date, and in its place, two new countries St. Maarten and Curaçao will emerge, along with three public entities

of the Netherlands: Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. This is the first time in the process of dismantling the Antilles, started by St. Maarten's referendum on June 23, 2000, that a firm date has been set. In the past there were several target dates but nothing to which the Dutch Government had affixed a signature. Marlin, Finance Commissioner Xavier Blackman and opposition Democratic Party

leader Island Councilwoman Sarah Wescot-Williams commended the island's smart and fierce group of advisors, who had found solutions in the face of many road blocks. Team St. Maarten has long been the banner under which government and opposition, armed with advisors, have waged the battle to get the status the people voted for in the June 2000 referendum. Just off the airport from

Curaçao at midday Thursday, Marlin singled out Project Director for Constitutional Affairs Dennis Richardson for always finding a solution to every barrier, even if this meant few hours of sleep. Wednesday's Kingdom Political Steering Group meeting was very gruelling, but as the day wore on, and with "some give and take," the team returned home with a signed agreement with a date for country status, Marlin said.

This is not the end of the road, because there is still a lot more to be done, the commissioner told the press in the Soualiga Business Lounge of Princess Juliana International Airport. Now is when the country has to emerge by taking up decentralised responsibilities and improving its infrastructure to better serve its people, he added.

This date for country status is not without conditions. Another Kingdom Steering Group meeting is planned for December in St. Maarten, to iron out the details of the Wednesday agreement. Chief among these is the progress committee that will be put in place to vet the readiness of the islands to assume the role of Country within the Kingdom.

Commissioner Blackman was equally full of praise for the dedication and hard work of the team. He pressed that the setting of 10-10-10 had been significant, and should not be tainted by talk of compromise, because this had been a joint decision of all partners. This message was reinforced by Dutch State Secretary for Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten, Antillean Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage, Curaçao Constitutional Affairs Commissioner Zita Jesus-Leito and Marlin.

Blackman added that Wednesday's agreement also served to hasten the preparation of the necessary infrastructure for St. Maarten to receive tasks from the Central Government, and with this the personnel and budgeted amounts to carry out the work. □

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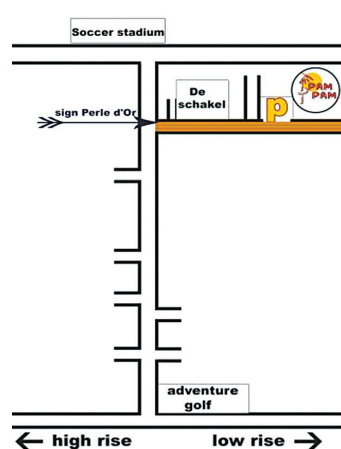
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Pam-Pam Café, located in the charming Perle D'Or Resort in Bubali, is the place to be on Friday evenings for a great taste of regional music, dance, food and hospitality, as proprietors and hosts Nico and Monique van de Borne welcome guests for their weekly "Latin Night."

Pam-Pam Café is situated in a delightful tropical setting that is the perfect backdrop for a show by 2002 World Salsa Champions Janice and Oslin Boekhoudt, who run their Pachanga Dance School

out Perle D'Or. They and their dance troupe put on a show of the exotic Zouk, originating from the French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, and inspiration for the Brazilian Lambada. If their sensual movements inspire any audience members, they can sign up at Pam-Pam for private dance lessons from the Pachanga crew, which also teach Salsa and Merengue.

In addition to the island music and dance, reasonably prices snacks (10.50 in Aruban florins (\$6) for an Assorted Snack Platter or Buffalo Wings among

other choices) and cocktails are available throughout the evening. From 11 PM until closing time, Pam-Pam offers a special on top shelf whiskey for only 6 Aruban

florins (\$3.50)

If you are looking for the "real deal" in Caribbean entertainment and ambiance and a chance to rub elbows with islanders, schedule Pam-Pam Café as your Friday night entertainment!

Pam Pam restaurant

First-time patrons will be pleasantly surprised by an appealing a la carte menu that is quite affordably priced, and main courses, (25) which are priced between \$13 / \$22.

Pam-Pam's house specialty is a unique method of preparation, which presently,

in Aruba, is found only at their establishment and which they have dubbed their "Gourmet Meal." A grill and a collection of the freshest of ingredients for the various dishes ordered are assembled tableside, and patrons prepare the food themselves, controlling their preference of seasonings and garnishes, along with degree of doneness, providing a unique and personal taste treat. It is suggested that reservations for this singular dining experience be made one day in advance.

When you want to see restaurants menu, visit: www.visitaruba.com Phone: 5877710 or 5932660

A terrific discussion evening at De Suikertuin



ORANJESTAD - An interesting discussion evening was put together at De Suikertuin restaurant. Although the place is normally closed after 5 pm, last Thursday formed an exception. Some 18



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people showed up to talk and to listen. Led by Petra van den Berg, who eloquently summarized and clarified what was being said, the topics encompassed a wide range. Starting out-point was the individual's position in a world which is so rapidly changing. The discussion then veered towards the personal take on happenings and personal growth. With coffee, tea and snacks keeping everyone animated and articulate, the evening was a great success. For those interested in attending the next discussion evening: it will be held on Thursday, November 5. □



At The Village in Palm Beach

1st Aruba Wine & Food Festival a success!



PALM BEACH - Music, lots of delicious tidbits, great wines and some authentic souvenirs encompassed the contents of a fun night out for locals and tourists alike last Thursday evening. The Aruba Wine and Dine Food Festival will be held every last Thursday of the month, and we can tell you that this first edition was a hit!

The Village Food and Wine Festival is a food festival that is organized every once a month, each time with a different theme to it. The idea of the food festival is for each restaurant / store/ shop that participates to present and sell their upcoming products/ menu for a certain holiday or celebration. For this month the festival has been moved

to 1 October 2009 due to the elections.

(DJ Yeimy) and a live band (The Untouchables) were the entertainers for everyone who joined in the event.

Participants: MooMba Beach, Hadicurari, Salt & Pepper, Tango, Fishes and More, Sopranos, Cactus Jack, Chino Latino, Mambo Jambo, Café the Plaza, Cuban Cigars, Le Gourmet, Pepia Est (wines), Aruba Tourism Authority with Aruba Music Festival tickets. This first event was sponsored in part by Compra, Pepia Est and Balashi.

The Village is located across from the Radisson Resort.

Photos show how much fun the festive first Food Festival was. □



Michael Jackson's This Is It' Ticket Sales Break International Records

Documentary sells out across U.S. a month before its release



ORANJESTAD — Aruba will launch the documentary at the end of the month at the local cinemas. Even in death, Michael Jackson continues to be a guaranteed superstar. Just as the initial run of his planned concerts at the O2 arena in London sold out almost instantly earlier this year, the posthumous documentary about the King of Pop's preparations for that residency, "Michael Jackson's

This Is It," has broken advance ticket sales records for a movie. According to Reuters, hundreds of screenings in North America have already sold out, a month before the film's October 28 opening. Among the cities with the strongest sales are Los Angeles, San Francisco, Houston and New York. Records were also set in Japan, where more than \$1 million in tickets were sold on the first day they were

available. In London, fans bought more than 30,000 tickets on the first day, eclipsing the advance interest in the "Harry Potter" and "The Lord of the Rings" films, which were wildly popular in Britain. Record sales were also reported in Holland, Sweden, Belgium and New Zealand. The documentary will have a limited two-week run, which might explain the rush on tickets. On Sunday, all 3,000 spots for a Los Angeles advance screening of "This Is It" on October 27 sold out within two hours. The film follows Jackson as he rehearsed and prepared for a 50-date run of concerts, which were scheduled to begin in London just weeks after his death on June 25. Sony Pictures Entertainment paid \$60 million for the more than 100 hours of hi-def rehearsal footage. The film, which was directed by Kenny Ortega, will feature behind-the-scenes

footage as well as Jackson and his band and dancers rehearsing for the tour. Last week, it was confirmed that a two-disc album featuring a

new song, "This Is It," will be released on October 27 to coincide with the movie's theatrical release. The new single drops on October 12. □



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Spotlight on seniors for Day of Older Persons

~ Two honoured ~

PHILIPSBURG -- The spotlight shone on senior citizens on Thursday as several dignitaries, including Leader of Government Commissioner William Marlin, paid tribute to the elderly in observance of International Day of Older Persons.

Separate celebratory events were held at St. Martin's Home as well as at the Senior Citizens Recreational Centre in Hope Estate.

The highlights of the day were the honouring of Martha Duzanzon-Connor (102), the eldest St. Martin's Home resident and Walter "Plantz" Williams (93) of the section of Front Street usually referred to as "Down

Street."

Marlin visited Williams at his home to present the former fisherman and barber with a miniature boat made by a former prison inmate of matchsticks. Marlin was accompanied by his Executive Assistant Dorothy Lake and State Secretary for Health Patrick Illidge. The jovial Williams expressed appreciation for the gesture. Duzanzon-Connor had been honoured with a bouquet of flowers earlier in the day at St. Martin's Home. Her children Alvin and Eva Connor were on hand to witness the presentation.

The Leader of Government told the cheerful group of clients that every community

should look after its seniors. He said senior citizens had made their contributions to help build St. Maarten and now it was their time to enjoy their lives.

At one point the commissioner took the floor and danced with a cheerful senior citizen at St. Martin's Home, which held a day of celebration in observance of International Day of Older Persons.

A number of dignitaries turned out to the evening celebration at the Senior Citizens Recreational Centre in Hope Estate, which featured dancing, a poetry recital and other forms of entertainment.

Centre President Violet Lake told attendees, which included a large number of seniors, that age was no excuse for giving up. She challenged senior citizens to make the most of their days. "Old age is a time of unsurpassed fulfilment," she said. Marlin congratulated seniors on their day and said being a senior citizen didn't mean that life had ended.

He alluded to figures from the Census Office that showed St. Maarten had some 4,971 registered persons 60 years and older, from no fewer than 91 different countries and islands as far away as South Africa, Syria, Taiwan,

Vietnam, Sweden and Switzerland, and from almost every Caribbean island, and from across Latin America.

Also attending last night's ceremony were Lt. Governor Franklyn Richards, Commissioners Xavier Blackman and Frans Richardson, National Alliance Member of Parliament (MP) George Pantophlet, Democratic Party (DP) Leader Island Councilwoman Sarah Wescot-Williams, DP Island Councilwoman Maria Buncamper-Molanus and People's Progressive Alliance (PPA) Leader Gracita Arrindell. □

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PMIA honours local volunteers

PHILIPSBURG--Marking the twelfth annual Philipsburg Mutual Improvement Association (PMIA) Awards of Excellence presentation, two local volunteers were honoured this year.

They were Senior Policy Assistant to Youth Affairs at the Culture Department and District Administrator

of the St. Maarten Little League Association Elmora Pantophlet-Aventurin and Nurse Muriel Monique Gumbs.

The ceremony was themed "Volunteerism" and these two individuals were painted in that light for their selfless contributions to both young and old in St. Maarten's

community.

Gumbs, whose honour came as a surprise, had been invited to the evening's presentation on the basis that she would recite a poem, but was later showered with admiration as her voluntary efforts were highlighted.

Gumbs has been gathering clothes and food for the less

fortunate and personally delivering the items to the dwellings of these individuals for the last 20 years. She is known for giving rides to persons walking on Welgelegen Road to St. Maarten Medical Center where she is a nurse.

On receiving her award she encouraged all to follow her example, as it is a rewarding experience to know that your contribution may have changed someone's life.

Invited as the keynote speaker, Pantophlet-Aventurin was speechless when she was honoured, commenting that she volunteered in the field of sports willingly. She has been active in sports for more than 20 years, particularly in the sport of volleyball and in training softball players and young baseball players.

In her address Pantophlet-Aventurin said she had never considered her line of work as an act of volunteerism, further as a contribution to nation building. She said many volunteers on the island did not consider themselves as such, but rather viewed their efforts as something from the heart.

She said the local volunteer organisations served as the backbone of the island, contributing to nation building. With various social issues brewing on the forefront of our nation, such as the increase in crime, she suggested that volunteers stir a feeling of hope in offenders during consultations, offering

a listening ear.

Commenting that local businesses were always there to make a contribution, she said the community should not depend on government's contribution alone for the execution of their projects.

She suggested that while government was often forced to consult with the local volunteer organisations on policy-making, so too should the volunteer organisations insist on having a say in policy-making. She said government could not succeed without participation of volunteers.

Pantophlet-Aventurin encouraged the volunteer organisations to unite, whereby they could share information and resources. She said while financing programmes was often an issue with volunteer groups, it would be more efficient to utilise available materials optimally. Therefore she recommended a volunteer database system be developed, storing general information of all local volunteers, to link organisations and activities.

Pantophlet-Aventurin said her personal satisfaction in what she did was knowing that she helped guide an individual into becoming a productive citizen. She commented, "A true volunteer doesn't do it for the praise."

Also on the evening's agenda was entertainment by singer Leonora Courtar and gospel group The Light Bearer. MC for the evening was Wendell Moore. □

Clarity at last

The word is out. The new relations in the Dutch Kingdom definitely will take effect on October 10 next year, when the Netherlands Antilles officially will cease to exist and both Curaçao and St. Maarten will become autonomous countries like Aruba already is.

Although the 10-10-10 date is irrevocable, safeguards have been put in place in the event the two new countries when they become operational are not yet able to properly execute all tasks for which they are responsible, which will be determined in a test Round Table Conference to be held a few months before. In that case a General Kingdom Government Measure will go into effect "for temporary facilities for cooperation in and guaranteeing of" the execution of action plans to address the shortcomings within two years.

A progress committee will monitor the latter and if there is the threat of delay the Prime Minister of the new country involved and the Dutch administrator in charge of Kingdom Relations will have to work it out in bilateral consultations. If they can't agree, the Kingdom Council of Ministers will have the final say.

While some have already likened this arrangement to Higher Supervision, others point out that without such safeguards the constitutional changes may never materialise, with all possible consequences for the development of the islands concerned.

An important point of contention was that

such a general measure could not last forever, so a two-year timeframe was included with a one-time extension possibility for another two years. In other words, it may take up to two or – in the worst case scenario – even four years before St. Maarten and Curaçao have full authority over every task that now falls under the Antillean Government, but at least it has been determined that such will be the end result. In any case, it is ultimately up to the islands themselves to show they can carry as many of these responsibilities as possible even before 10-10-10, because the intention is still to transfer the tasks to the islands involved by January 1, 2010.

A less positive side is the need to have two elections within 6½ months, one on January 22 for the Antillean Parliament and one by August 10 for the Parliaments of the new countries Curaçao and St. Maarten. That's not an attractive prospect, also because the question can be raised how much effort will be put into the election for an Antillean Parliament that will cease to exist 8½ months later anyway.

However, at least the die in terms of the date and conditions for new constitutional relations finally has been cast, after decades of what seemed endless discussions, two and in some cases three referendums per island, and countless reports and meetings. A lot obviously still remains to be done, but there is now at least a clear light at the end of the tunnel. □

Windsurfers Come for the 4th Cabarete Classic

It all started in 2006. Native Cabarete windsurfer Pablito Guzman wanted to keep the spirit of windsurfing alive in his home town on the north coast of the Dominican Republic, so he reunited water sports fanatics from many parts of the world to enjoy the famous winds and waves of Cabarete Bay. This year, from July 22 through 26, it happened for the fourth time, as Pablito succeeded in attracting windsurfers from abroad to compete with his very talented Cabarete youngsters.

Among other foreign participants, twelve windsurfers and their supporters from the Dutch islands of Aruba and Bonaire chartered their own plane to attend the event. Raul Marquez from Argentina was there to defend his formula title, and Steven Max from Aruba, now living in Curacao, represented the Windsurfing Curacao group.

The competition started with a new event called the Butterfly Effect, which brings women together for noncompetitive ocean sports gatherings in coastal cities all over the world. The aim is to instill self-confidence and a love for the ocean in women of all skill levels. The Butterfly Effect began in Hawaii in 2007. Since then, the event has been organized in Brazil, New Zealand, France, Oregon, Germany, Australia, the Dominican Republic and Tahiti by initiator and organizer Tatiana Howard, assisted by Juliana Shelef, both from Hawaii.

In Cabarete, Michelle Bourdeau was the local

Butterfly Effect host. The main sports have been windsurfing, stand-up paddle, and kiting but are not limited to other water sports such as wake boarding, surf, and kayak. Each gathering also includes safety and stretching sessions, as well as food and gear from local sponsors and fund raising for local charities. Hundreds of women around the world have already participated in these fun and non-competitive gatherings. The 12th event in Cabarete added 30 women to the score. It started with a beach clean-up led by the Dream Project Girls Summer Camp group. The day full of water sports fun was concluded by a raffle to benefit the event and the local Dream Project. This celebration, in LAX restaurant, led the way to the official opening of the windsurfing competition, which started the next afternoon, when winds were sufficient for formula sailing and all categories of slalom.

Throughout the weekend, wind-forces stayed below normal and only enabled the freestylers to show their tricks on the last day, whereas slalom competitions were sailed every day. During the 14-mile long distance race from The Hermitage back to Cabarete Bay, the windsurfers raced against kitesurfers for an overall win.

The Cabarete Classic once again was a relaxing, fun-filled event that stimulated the brotherhood of Caribbean windsurfers. Initiator and organizer Pablito Guzman, supported by many local businesses, once

again showcased Cabarete's beautiful and perfect wind-and kitesurfing facilities and its heartwarming hospitality. The crew of Hotel Villa Taina, situated on the beach in the middle of the action, once again displayed great involvement by sponsoring a dinner for all and offering rooms for officials.

Many participants promised to be back for the fifth anniversary edition at the end of July 2010. Cabarete Classic maintains a website where results and photos can be found. www.cabarete-classic.com. Silvan Wick's photo, which inspired the event's logo, is worthy of a visit

Nicole van der Velden

Aruban sailor Nicole van der Velden, 14, was one of the remarkable participants of the Cabarete Classic. Her name appeared before in All At Sea when she, teaming up with her father Martin, participated in the Aruba Heineken catamaran Regatta in November last year and won the small class category.

In Cabarete she showed that she's able to reach highs on her own. Nicole only started windsurfing three years ago when her father's colleague convinced her to try out the sport at Wim Eelen's Aruba Active Vacations (AAV). World champion Freestyle Sarah-Quita Offringa took Nicole under her wing, resulting in a second place in women's slalom in Cabarete. The Collegio Arubano student will focus on slalom and wave windsurfing and will surely be heard from more in the near future. □

Seminar to be held on energy efficiency in building design, construction

WILLEMSTAD - The United States Consulate General, in cooperation with the Curacao Business Council for Sustainable Development (Bedrijvenplatform Milieu BPM), will host a two-day seminar on "Energy efficiency in building design and construction" at the International Trade Center, Piscadera Bay on Wednesday, October 7 from 08:15-17:00 and Thursday, October 8 from 08:30-12:00.

The United States Consulate General has invited Mr. Vincent Pieri as the keynote speaker. Mr. Pieri is an architect whose sole focus is the integration of green and sustainable strategies into the construction environment at every level through design excellence and the application of sound project management principles. He is committed to the green building movement in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean.

This U.S. Consulate General program is designed to increase awareness and help develop Curacao's energy sustainability programs in cooperation with local government. This program is a continuation in a series of programs organized by the Business Council for Sustainable Development and the U.S. Consulate. Last year they organized well-received "energy conservation and the environment" and "waste management development" programs.

Mr. Vincent Pieri will conduct his keynote presentation in English. Other speakers at this seminar are: Lloyd Narain-Amigu di Tera; Selwin Maduro-Refineria di Korsou; Ronny Lobo-Lobo & Rayman Architects; Raycelli Seferina-Aqualetra; Franklin Rosheuvel-Energy & Automation; Chris van Grieken-Antillean Rain Gutters. □

USCGC SPENCER to Support Mgr. Verriet Foundation in Curaçao



WILLEMSTAD - USCGC Coast Guard. The cutter was commissioned in 1986, is 270 feet in length and has a crew of approximately 100 officers and enlisted personnel. USCGC SPENCER is the third cutter to serve the United States bearing the name "Spencer".

USCGC SPENCER is currently engaged in the multinational exercise

"Caribbean Venture" in which several countries focus on working together to prevent illicit drug trafficking.

USCGC SPENCER sailors will devote some of their free time to the local community and continue a landscaping and clean-up project at the Mgr. Verriet Foundation started today by USS NEWPORT NEWS sailors. Also, the crew is looking forward to enjoying rest and relaxation opportunities in Curaçao.

The Mgr. Verriet Foundation for rehabilitation care, and a foundation for the mentally handicapped and rehabilitation care, joined together to form the SGR group in 2003. The Mgr. Verriet Foundation was established over 60 years ago. Together with the umbrella organization it has various locations for the care of the handicapped on the island. □

BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Stocks pull off lows, fluctuate after jobs data



Gerard Petti of LaBranche & Co. works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Friday, Oct. 2, 2009, in New York.

(AP Photo/Henny Ray Abrams)

By IEVA M. AUGSTUMS
and SARA LEPRO,
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — Stocks pared early losses and fluctuated in afternoon trading Friday after a disappointing jobs report.

The seesaw trade comes after stocks declined in six of the last seven sessions. The Dow Jones industrials have pulled back about 4.5 percent since coming within 82 points of the 10,000 level last week.

“Pullbacks are going to constantly be used as opportunities to get into the market,” said Hank Smith, chief investment officer of equity at Haverford Investments in Radnor, Pa.

The day’s news added to a recent string of bad indicators for the economy. The Labor Department reported that employers cut 263,000 jobs last month, up from 201,000 in August and worse than the 180,000 losses economists were expecting. The unemployment rate rose to 9.8 percent, in line with forecasts. A surprise decline in factory orders Friday was also troubling. The Commerce Department said factory orders fell 0.8 percent in August following a 1.4 percent gain in July. Analysts had been expecting a 0.7 percent

increase.

On Thursday, the Dow tumbled more than 200 points after a disappointing report on manufacturing activity from the Institute for Supply Management dealt another blow to optimism that had been emerging about a recovery in the industrial sector.

After months of improving data and even small signs of growth, the week’s disappointing reports have led investors to question whether the 50 percent surge in stocks over the past six months can be sustained.

“People have had a long, hard week,” said Bruce Shalett, managing partner at Wynston Hill Capital in New York.

In early afternoon trading, the Dow Jones industrials rose 10.43, or 0.1 percent, to 9,519.71, after earlier falling as much as 79 points. The Standard & Poor’s 500 index fell 0.13, or 0.01 percent, to 1,029.72, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 1.98, or 0.1 percent, to 2,059.46.

About four stocks fell for every three that rose on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 750.3 million shares, compared with 650.8 million at the same time on Thursday. In other trading, the Russell 2000 index of smaller

companies gained 0.63, or 0.1 percent, to 584.38

Stocks are coming off a banner third quarter. Both the Dow and the S&P 500 index gained 15 percent in the July-September period. It was the Dow’s best quarter since 1998.

The fourth quarter may not be as bright. Analysts say the market could drift lower over the next couple of weeks as investors await quarterly earnings reports from companies and their outlooks on business activity in the coming months. The last meaningful pullback in the market since the rally began in March, in which the major indexes lost about 7 percent, came during the four weeks leading up to second-quarter reports this summer.

“October is shaping up to be a challenging month for investors,” said Brent McQuiston, a vice president at WealthTrust-Arizona.

Strong earnings could help offset any growing concerns about an economic recovery and stabilize the market, he said, but solid revenue growth is what is needed to put the market on “firm footing.”

In the meantime, the market will get reports on the service sector, retail sales and wholesale trade inventories next week.

Yields on long-term Treasuries hovered near their lowest levels since the spring. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, inched up to 3.20 percent from 3.18 percent late Thursday.

The dollar was mixed against other currencies. Gold prices rose.

Oil prices fell \$1.40 to \$69.42 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. □



World Bank President Robert Zoellick during the International Monetary Fund’s release of the 2009 World Economic Outlook in Istanbul. The World Bank has warned the global economy is on unsteady legs, saying that 2010 would be “a highly uncertain economic year” as other signals took the gloss off talk of a quick recovery.

(AFP/Bulent Kilic)

World Bank warns on 2010 as US job losses mount

by Dario Thuburn

ISTANBUL (AFP) — The World Bank on Friday warned the global economy was on unsteady legs, saying that 2010 would be “a highly uncertain economic year” as other signals took the gloss off talk of a quick recovery.

The warning came as stock markets tumbled around the world and the United States, the world’s biggest economy, said job losses had accelerated to 263,000 in September and the unemployment rate rose to 9.8 percent.

The International Monetary Fund raised its economic growth forecasts for next year for most major advanced and emerging economies on Thursday.

But experts warn that unemployment will continue to rise, that recovery will be slow at best, and that there could even be a return to recession.

“We’ve broken the fall of the financial crisis but it’s certainly too early to declare success,” World Bank president Robert Zoellick said in Istanbul in the run-up to the annual meetings of the IMF and the World Bank next week.

“2009 will continue to be a difficult year and 2010, when much of the stimulus action will run out, remains a highly uncertain economic year,” he said, citing in particular the risk of inflation in Asian economies.

“We expect that unemployment will continue to go up and it’ll be slow in coming down.... When you have large-scale unemployment those at the bottom are hurt the most and have the least cushion,” he added.

IMF managing director Dominique Strauss-Kahn warned unemployment would continue to rise for around a year, saying: “I’m still very much concerned about unemployment... It casts a long shadow over the recovery.”

In Europe, figures released on Thursday showed the unemployment rate in the 16-nation eurozone hit 9.6 percent in August.

Japan meanwhile said on Friday that its jobless rate fell to 5.5 percent in August -- the first improvement in seven months. □

CBS employee charged with Letterman extortion plot

By DAVID BAUDER,
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK — A CBS News employee has been indicted in an extortion plot against David Letterman, who acknowledged sexual relationships with female staffers on his show after the man tried to blackmail him for \$2 million, the Manhattan district attorney said Friday. Robert J. “Joe” Halderman, a producer for the true-crime show “48 Hours,” was arrested Thursday and indicted on one count of attempted first-degree grand larceny, punishable by five to 15 years upon conviction, District Attorney Robert Morgenthau said. “Our concern here is extortion, and that’s what we’re focusing on,” Morgenthau said. Documents filed in Stamford Superior Court in Connecticut show that Halderman, of Norwalk, was required to pay nearly \$6,000 a month in child and spousal support to his ex-wife. Prosecutors declined to say whether Halderman had financial problems or other motives. He was due to be arraigned later Friday. His lawyer, Gerald Shargel, didn’t immediately

return a telephone call Friday. The district attorney’s office said Halderman left a letter and other material for Letterman early Sept. 9. He wrote that he needed “to make a large chunk of money” by selling Letterman a screenplay treatment — an entertainment-business term for a synopsis used to pitch a screenplay. The supposed treatment said Letterman’s world would “collapse around him” when information about his private life was disclosed, leading to “a ruined reputation” and damaging his professional and family life, prosecutors said. The also mentioned Letterman’s “beautiful and loving son,” prosecutors said. It wasn’t clear whether the reference was meant as a threat to harm the boy. Letterman was the victim of a 2005 plot by a former painter at his Montana ranch to kidnap his nanny and son for a ransom. After receiving the materials, Letterman immediately contacted his lawyer, who arranged a meeting with Halderman. At the meeting, Halderman demanded \$2 million to keep the material secret, the district attorney’s

office said. After the meeting, Letterman and his lawyer contacted the DA’s office and the investigation began. In an extraordinary monologue before millions of viewers, the late-night host admitted that he had sexual relationships with female employees. Letterman said that “this whole thing has been quite scary,” but he mixed in jokes while outlining what had happened to him. It was a shock because the 62-year-old Letterman had married longtime girlfriend Regina Lasko in March. The couple began dating in 1986 and have a son, Harry, born in November 2003. It was not immediately clear when the relationships to which Letterman admitted took place, or how long they lasted. Fatherhood and his heart surgery in 2000 had seemed to mellow Letterman, who took over as the most popular late-night comedy host this summer after NBC replaced Jay Leno with Conan O’Brien on the “Tonight” show. Letterman sat behind his desk to outline the scheme after a monologue that targeted some frequent foils like Sarah Palin and Dick Cheney.



This image rendered from video shows David Letterman as he tells his story during a taping of his late-night show Thursday Oct. 1, 2009 that he had sexual relationships with female employees and that someone tried to extort \$2 million from him over the affairs, and CBS says an employee has been charged with attempted grand larceny in the case.

(AP Photo/CBS)

Travolta attorney says he warned Bahamas defendant

By JUAN McCARTNEY,
Associated Press Writer

NASSAU, Bahamas — A lawyer for John Travolta testified Thursday that he warned a former Bahamas senator she would not get away with an alleged scheme to extort \$25 million from the movie star, and even wore a wire to secretly record their conversations.

Attorney Michael McDermott said the defendant, Pleasant Bridgewater, contacted him by telephone and demanded the money on behalf of a paramedic who had treated the actor’s 16-year-old son, Jett, following a seizure that led to his death.

The pair allegedly threatened to go to the media with a consent form that the actor signed to have his autistic son taken to an airport and flown to the U.S. for treatment. Travolta later changed his mind and Jett died at a local hospital Jan. 2.

Bridgewater and the paramedic, Tarino Lightbourne, have pleaded not guilty to extortion charges at the trial that began Sept. 21.

McDermott said he told Bridgewater, a former Bahamas senator who allegedly negotiated with the actor’s lawyers for the medic, during the Jan. 12 phone conversation that she was committing a crime.

“I then told her: ‘You are playing a very dangerous game, lady. I do not assent to your demands. I will go to the police,’” McDermott said.

Regardless of the threat of a police investigation, Bridgewater kept contacting him with Lightbourne’s demands, McDermott testified. □



U.S. actor John Travolta, right, and his wife Kelly Preston leave the court building in Nassau, Bahamas, Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2009. Travolta testified Wednesday that Bahamas paramedic Tarino Lightbourne, who is now on trial for extortion, threatened to sell stories to the news media suggesting the movie star was at fault in the death of his 16-year-old son, demanding \$25 million.

(AP Photo/Hendricks McIntosh)

Three weeks ago, Letterman said, he got in his car early in the morning and found a package with a letter saying, “I know that you do some terrible, terrible things and that I can prove that you do some terrible things.” He acknowledged the letter contained proof. He said it was terrifying “because there’s something insidious about (it). Is he standing down there? Is he hiding under the car? Am I going to get a tap on the shoulder?”

A law enforcement official told The Associated Press that the district attorney’s office set up the undercover sting operation at the swank Jumeirah Essex House hotel in Manhattan. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because the investigation continues.

Police detectives were in an adjoining room with recording equipment and surveillance as Letterman’s attorney met with Halderman and discussed terms of the extortion, the official said.

“At one point he told the attorney that he didn’t want to have to work for the rest of his life, and the number he came up with was \$2 million,” the law enforcement official said. There were two subsequent meetings, with the man given a phony \$2 million check at the last one. Letterman joked on his show it was like the giant ceremonial check given to winners of golf tournaments.

He told the audience that he had to testify before a grand jury on Thursday.

“I was worried for myself; I was worried for my family,” he said. “I felt menaced by this, and I had to tell them all of the creepy things that I had done.”

He said, “The creepy stuff was that I have had sex with women who work for me on this show. My response to that is yes, I have. Would it be embarrassing if it were made public? Yes, it would, especially for the women.”

Whether they wanted to make the relationships public was up to them, he said.

“It’s been a very bizarre experience,” he said. “I felt like I needed to protect these people. I need to protect my family. I need to protect myself. Hope to protect my job.”

CBS said in a statement that “we believe his comments speak for themselves.”

Letterman’s “Late Show” has been on the air since 1993. Before that, “Late Night with David Letterman” aired on NBC from 1982 to 1993.

Letterman won’t be taping a show Friday. Friday night’s show was taped Thursday.

The 2005 kidnapping plot was carried out by a former painter on Letterman’s ranch and sought a \$5 million ransom. The former painter, Kelly A. Frank, briefly escaped from prison in 2007 before being recaptured. □

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The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers up a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but **Texas de Brazil's** version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, **Texas de Brazil** will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

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Chicago 2016 supporters wait in Daley Square for the announcement from the 121st International Olympic Committee on the host city for the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Chicago, Friday, Oct. 2, 2009. Chicago was eliminated after the first vote in Copenhagen.

(AP Photo/Kii Sato, Pool)
See Next Page

Reid wants feedback on military's gay ban

By LARA JAKES,
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON — Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid wants to hear from the Obama administration on how to overturn the “don’t ask, don’t tell” ban on gays serving openly in the military. The Democratic-led Congress is considering repealing the 1993 law but isn’t expected to act on the issue until early next year. In the meantime, the Nevada Democrat is asking President Barack Obama and Defense Secretary Robert Gates to share their views and recommendations on the controversial policy. In Sept. 24 letters to Obama and Gates, Reid also asked for a review of the cases of two U.S. officers who were discharged from the military because of their sexuality. “At a time when we are fighting two wars, I do not believe we can afford to discharge any



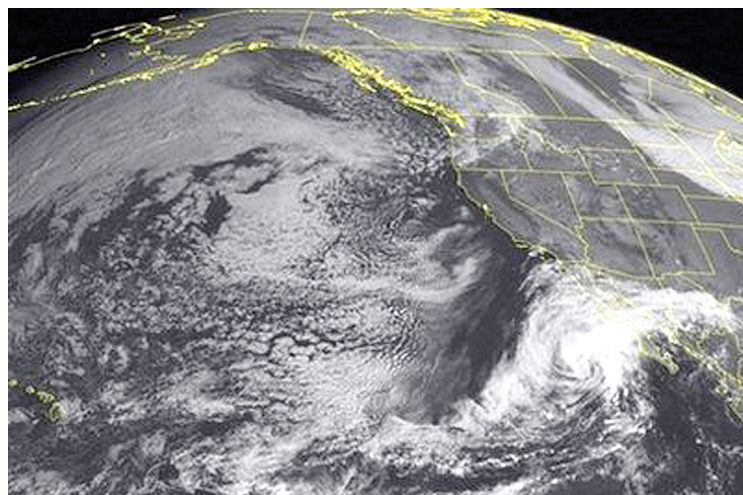
Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev. talks to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2009, following the weekly policy luncheons.

qualified individual who is willing to serve our country,” Reid wrote in identical letters to Obama and Gates that were obtained Friday by The Associated Press.

(AP Photo/Harry Hamburg)
Obama signaled during last year’s election campaign that he supported repealing the law.

Continued on Page B3

Tropical Storm Olaf moving north in the Pacific



This NOAA satellite image taken Friday, Oct. 2, 2009 at 02:00 PM EDT shows clear skies over the West as little precipitation is noticed in the region. A swirl of clouds off Baja California is associated with Tropical Storm Olaf.

(AP Photo/Weather Underground)

MIAMI — Tropical Storm Olaf is weakening slightly as it moves north in the Pacific far off Mexico’s coast.

Olaf’s maximum sustained winds have decreased to near 40 mph (65 kph). The storm is expected to produce rain in Mexico’s Baja California peninsula over the weekend and weaken to a tropical depression by Saturday. It was 465 miles (750 km) west of the southern tip of the peninsula Friday evening and moving toward the north near 9 mph (15 kph).

Rainfall amounts of 1 to 2 inches were forecast, with maximum storm total amounts of 4 inches across the central Baja peninsula. □



Earthquake survivors rest inside a tent at a temporary shelter in Padang, West Sumatra, Indonesia, Friday, Oct. 2, 2009.

(AP Photo/Dita Alangkara)

Survivors of Indonesian quake found; 3,000 missing

By IRWAN FIRDAUS
and ERIC TALMADGE,
Associated Press Writers

PADANG, Indonesia — Ratna Kurniasari Virgo lay surrounded by death for 40 hours — trapped with a broken leg between the collapsed walls of her college and the bodies of her dead friends.

Continued on Page B7



U.S. President Barack Obama finishes his speech in support of Chicago as the host city for the 2016 Summer Olympic Games, Friday, Oct. 2, 2009, in Copenhagen. Chicago, Madrid, Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo are competing to host the 2016 Summer Olympic Games and the IOC will choose the winning city in a vote on Friday, Oct. 2, in Copenhagen.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak, Pool)

Obama disappointed over Chicago's Olympics loss

By JULIE PACE,
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama had a message Friday for the many people — including himself — who put “heart and soul” into Chicago’s losing bid for the 2016 Olympic Games: “A” for effort.

“You can play a great game and still not win,” Obama said at the White House, shortly after returning from Copenhagen where his in-person plea did not put Chicago over the top. “Although I wish that we had come back with better news from Copenhagen, I could not be prouder.”

Obama expressed no regret at putting so much on the line for the failed effort.

“I have no doubt that it was the strongest bid possible and I’m proud that I was able to come in and help make that case in person,” the president said.

His chief spokesman, Robert Gibbs, told reporters that Obama got the bad news aboard Air Force One as he and his wife, Michelle, flew back to Washington from the Danish capital. He was watching TV alone in his quarters on the presidential jet.

Mrs. Obama had gone to Copenhagen ahead of her husband and had lobbied hard for the Summer Games to be brought to her hometown and his adopted hometown.

Chicago’s early exit from finalist balloting represented a personal setback for Obama and a painful defeat for Chicago, America’s most prominent Midwestern city. The president put his personal prestige and political capital at risk

when he decided late in the competition to go to Copenhagen and make a personal appeal.

“Absolutely,” Gibbs replied, when asked whether Obama was glad he’d made such a large commitment to lobbying for the Games. He said the president “would never shy away from traveling anywhere, talking to anyone about this country.”

Many people had assumed Chicago would be a finalist. But International Olympic Committee members eliminated it only hours after Obama and his wife urged them to send the Summer Games there. With Madrid and Tokyo also in the running, Rio de Janeiro won the intense competition.

Obama praised that decision as a “truly historic event” and said he called Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva from his plane to offer congratulations — tinged with a friendly taunt on 2016.

“Our athletes will see him on the field of competition,” Obama said.

In making his pitch, the president had said that a nation shaped by the people of the world “wants a chance to inspire it once more.” Never before had a U.S. president made such an in-person appeal, and Obama’s critics will doubtlessly see the vote as a sign of his political shortcomings.

The president’s whirlwind trip put him in the Danish capital for less than five hours Friday, with Chicago-backers hoping that would be sufficient to give the city the advantage it needed to win the close, four-way race to become the host city. □

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Photo by Diane Keijzer



DA: Man charged in Letterman plot was deep in debt

By DAVID BAUDER,
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK — A CBS newsman who prosecutors said was desperate and deep in debt was charged Friday with trying to blackmail David Letterman for \$2 million in a plot that forced the late night comic to acknowledge having sex with some of the women who have worked for him.

The bizarre case created a messy legal and professional problem for one of CBS’ most valuable personalities. Commentators and bloggers quickly accused Letterman of hypocrisy because he has made a career of mocking politicians mercilessly, often for their sexual transgressions.

From a strictly business perspective, Letterman’s revelations on Thursday’s show were an immediate success: His overnight ratings were up 38 percent over the same night a week ago, the Nielsen Co. said.

It remains to be seen whether Letterman will suffer long-term damage just as his career appears to be peaking. Letterman has taken over as the king of late-night in the ratings this summer, and last week he beat NBC’s Conan O’Brien for the first time among young viewers.

Robert J. “Joe” Halderman, a producer for the true-crime show “48 Hours Mystery,” pleaded not guilty in a Manhattan court as he was arraigned on one count of attempted first-degree grand larceny, punishable by five to 15 years in prison. Bail was set at \$200,000. □



Robert J. Halderman appears in State Supreme Court in New York, Friday, Oct. 2, 2009, for an arraignment on an attempted grand larceny charge. Halderman, a CBS producer, pleaded not guilty to trying to blackmail David Letterman for \$2 million in a plot that spurred the TV host to acknowledge sexual relationships with women who worked on his show. AP Photo/Pool, Marc A.

Hermann)

Jackson autopsy could pose problems for his doctor

By THOMAS WATKINS,
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Michael Jackson's autopsy report was surprising as much for what it didn't contain as for what it did: The singer was in relatively good health for a man his age and no illegal drugs were detected in his system.

Jackson's physical condition, detailed in his autopsy report obtained by The Associated Press, could be a useful tool for prosecutors as they weigh charges against his personal physician, Dr. Conrad Murray, who told police he administered a powerful anesthetic to the singer shortly before he died.

The coroner has ruled Jackson's death at age 50 a homicide with his death caused by acute intoxication of the anesthetic propofol with other sedatives a contributing factor. The coroner found the propofol was administered without any medical need and that recommended resuscitation equipment was missing.

The autopsy findings block a potential defense for Murray — that Jackson hid serious pre-existing conditions that increased the risk of death from the drugs he willingly took.

"It clearly establishes that Michael Jackson was a healthy person whose death appears to have been directly caused by the administration of some very powerful sedatives," said criminal defense attorney and former federal prosecutor Mark Werksman. "This autopsy report seems to clear the path for a prosecution that his death was caused by an overdose."

The Los Angeles County coroner's report shows Jackson's weight of 136 pounds was in the acceptable range for a 5-foot-9 man.

His heart was strong with no sign of plaque buildup. His kidneys and most other major organs were normal. Still, the singer did have health issues, many of them age related, including arthritis in the lower spine and some fingers, and mild plaque buildup in his leg arteries. Most serious was the condition of his lungs, which the autopsy report said were chronically inflamed and had reduced capacity that might have left him short of breath.

But the report noted the condition of his lungs would not have been a direct or contributing cause of death.

Murray's attorney, Edward Chernoff, said he was anxious to see the full autopsy results and would not comment until he had done so. He added that he stood by his original statement that Murray did not administer anything that "should have" killed Jackson.

Except for a brief video posted to YouTube, Murray has not spoken publicly since Jackson's death. In the video, Murray said: "I told the truth and I have faith the truth will prevail."

Michael G. Dave, a Los Angeles lawyer specializing

in civil litigation, said the autopsy report would be valuable for the Jackson family in the event they file a wrongful death civil suit. Such suits have a lower burden of proof than criminal prosecutions.

"That report, at face value, is dynamite for both the prosecutors and the heirs of Michael Jackson," said Michael G. Dave, a Los Angeles lawyer specializing in civil litigation. "It will go a long way to enable the heirs to win any wrongful death suit."

Stan Goldman, criminal law professor at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, said the autopsy findings would likely bolster a possible prosecution.

"The question for me is not if the prosecution has a stellar case for involuntary manslaughter but if they are going to try to go for some kind of murder," Goldman said.

Records state Murray told police he administered 25 milligrams of propofol to Jackson. But that's a very small dose that would not have kept the star under for long, raising questions about whether Murray misspoke or police misinterpreted what he told them.

The report provided details



FILE - In this March 17, 2005 file photo, pop star Michael Jackson arrives at the Santa Barbara County Courthouse in Santa Maria, Calif.

(AP Photo/Michael A. Mariant, file)

about Jackson's state from head to toes.

He had a 3/4-inch scar behind his left ear and another apparent scar behind his right ear. He had a scar beside each of his nostrils and another, 4-inch scar on his right shoulder. He had a pair of additional scars about 3-inches long at the base of his neck and smaller scars on his arms and wrist. He also had a small scar near his navel and a 2-inch scar on the right-hand side

of his abdomen.

He was going bald at the front of his head, with his remaining hair described as short and tightly curled. The bald part of his scalp was darkened with what appeared to be a tattoo stretching across the top of his head from ear to ear.

The coroner found depigmentation of his skin around his chest, abdomen, face and arms. The report also said he was actively producing sperm. □

GAY BAN

Continued from Page B1


But to the chagrin of his gay-rights supporters, he has made no move to do so since taking office in January. The White House has said it will not stop the military from dismissing gays and lesbians who acknowledge their sexuality.

Last year, 634 members of the military were discharged for being gay, or .045 percent of the active-duty U.S. force, according to an Aug. 14 congressional report.


The largest number of gays who were ousted under the "don't ask, don't tell" policy came in 2001, when 1,227 were discharged, or .089 of the force.

The House is considering legislation to repeal "don't ask, don't tell" and allow people who have been discharged under the policy to rejoin the military. The law is being pushed chiefly by Rep. Patrick Murphy, D-Pa., a former captain in the Army's 82nd Airborne Division who served in Bosnia and Iraq.

Murphy has said he does not expect congressional hearings on the policy until next year. □



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Health overhaul closer than ever — and yet far off



Senate Minority Leader Sen. Mitch McConnell of Ky. gestures during a news conference on health care reform legislation, Friday, Oct. 2, 2009, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

By **RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR**,
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Eight months in office, Barack Obama has now pushed closer than any other president in generations to creating a basic health care safety net for working Americans. Yet the fate of legislation delivering on his goal is far from certain: Republicans are nearly unified in opposition, Democrats hardly united in support.

Indeed, few if any of the major arguments about the scope and costs of the historic undertaking are settled as congressional leaders prepare to take legislation to the floor in the next two weeks.

Democrats on the Senate Finance Committee came together early Friday — after 2 a.m. — to finish the heavy lifting on a bill designed to appeal to moderates. Obama hailed it as a milestone and noted, for history, that overhauling health care has eluded presidents from Harry S. Truman to Richard Nixon to Bill Clinton.

“We are now closer than ever before to finally passing reform that will offer security to those who have coverage and affordable insurance to those who don’t,” Obama said.

But not yet. And not for sure.

The 10-year, \$900 billion bill would remake one-sixth of the U.S. economy, clearing a path to health insurance for millions who don’t have it now. It would be financed by reducing Medicare and Medicaid payments to health care providers, and by ordering new taxes and fees that are already meeting resistance. Insurers would no longer be able to turn away those in poor health.

Final passage in the Finance Committee, a political bellwether, is all but assured next week. After that, things really start to get interesting.

Senate Democratic leaders will begin tugging on Finance Chairman Max Baucus’ hard-won compromise to try to meld it with a liberal-leaning version passed by the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. That second version would allow the government to sell insurance in competition with private industry, a highly controversial issue, while the plan from Baucus, D-Mont., would not.

The government-run plan doesn’t appear to have the votes to clear the Senate. In the House, it’s the other way around. A bill that doesn’t include a government plan to compete with private insurers won’t get off the floor, Democratic leaders say.

That’s not the only fault line.

The House plan taxes the wealthy to pay for subsidies needed to make health coverage affordable for millions who are now uninsured. The Senate instead taxes the health care haves — those with expensive insurance plans. The House plan — and the Senate health committee bill — would require employers to offer coverage to their workers or pay a tax penalty. The Senate Finance bill has no requirement that employers offer coverage, although it would levy a charge on businesses whose workers end up getting government subsidies.

If lawmakers manage to work their way through those issues, they still won’t be safely through the political minefield. They’ll face contentious issues including how to deal with coverage for abortions and how to keep benefits from going to illegal immigrants. “A lot of people have a lot of non-starters, and they are different non-starters,” said House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md. “If you add up all the non-starters, it makes it very difficult to pass a bill. When we get an agreement in the House, it will contain things some people will prefer weren’t in there. It will also contain things they want. As in every major piece of legislation, you have to find a balance.”

Increasingly, Obama will have to step in to settle disputes and keep the bill moving forward. That will please some lawmakers and alienate others. He can’t afford to lose many of his fractious Democrats.

Polls show the public has many concerns and questions about the legislation. But for now, most Americans seem to want Congress to keep working.

Republicans are certain that the more people learn, the less they’ll like about the Democrats’ approach.

“What we know for sure about this proposal, the core of it will include half a trillion dollars in Medicare cuts over 10 years and hundreds of billions of dollars in tax increases on both individuals and businesses,”

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky told reporters Friday.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada has said he wants meld the Finance and health committee bills in fairly short order. He could have a bill on the floor the week after next, with debate expected to last for weeks. The Democrats have 60 votes in the Senate — 58 from their party and two independents — and that’s the magic number needed to overcome roadblocks. But as yet there’s no bill that 60 Democrats would agree to. In the House, the third week of October is the earliest a bill could come to the floor, Hoyer said. Leaders are still meeting with rank-and-file Democrats to work through disagreements.

On Friday, more than 100 Democrats sent House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., a letter opposing the tax on high cost insurance in the Senate Finance plan. They argued the tax would ultimately be paid by middle-class union members who bargained hard for comprehensive health plans.

“The purpose of this letter is to put a big red flag in front of the White House and the congressional leadership,” said Rep. Joe Courtney, D-Conn., who circulated the letter. “This will be a problem.”

Finance Democrats have felt the pushback already. Baucus accepted an

amendment by Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., that would ease the bite of the insurance tax on retirees over the age of 55 and for plans that cover workers in high-risk jobs like coal mining.

Still, the wrangling obscures considerable agreement on what the health care system would look like after it’s reengineered. Some of the outlines have emerged:

- Although government will play a bigger role than it does now, most people will still be covered by private insurance plans sponsored by their employers.

- Medicaid will be expanded to cover more low-income people, including childless adults for the first time.

- Self-employed people and those working for a company that doesn’t provide health insurance will be able to buy coverage through new insurance purchasing pools called exchanges. Government would provide tax credits for many middle class people. Insurers participating in the exchanges will have to take all applicants and will be limited in what they can charge those who are older and sicker.

- Medicare would adopt a new philosophy geared to better coordinating care for seniors with chronic illnesses and trying to keep them out of the hospital.

Even Democrats who are upset with the Senate Finance bill say they’re optimistic that Congress can get legislation to Obama.

“There is enough momentum now that I would disagree with the characterization that it’s going to be impossible to meld the two sides,” said Courtney, the Connecticut Democrat trying to derail the insurance tax. “My hope is it will be by Thanksgiving, and my honest opinion is closer to Christmas.” □

Stepmom: Man arrested in Ill. slaying didn't do it

By CHRISTOPHER WILLS,
Associated Press Writer

LINCOLN, Ill. — The stepmother of a suspect in the slayings of a central Illinois family said Friday that police arrested the wrong person and described her stepson as a gentle man who always walked away from confrontation. “We’re all devastated,” Debbie Harris of Lincoln told The Associated Press. “There is no way he did this. I think he’s being used as a scapegoat.” Christopher Harris, 30, was arrested Thursday in the bludgeoning deaths of five members of his ex-wife’s family in the tiny town of Beason last month. He was charged Friday with five counts of first-degree murder and one count of attempted murder and could face the death penalty if convicted. Harris was divorced several years ago from Nicole Gee, whose father, his wife and three of their children were killed. Harris and Gee had reconciled, intended to marry again and recently had a second child together, Debbie Harris said.

Chris Harris has been working as a cook at a Steak ‘n Shake in Lincoln while also studying architecture at Lincoln College, where he got A and B grades, his stepmother said. In his free time, he enjoyed taking his family boating on area rivers and lakes, she said. “He is mild mannered with a good sense of humor,” Debbie Harris said, adding her stepson was never prone to violence. “That was not in his nature.” Raymond “Rick” Gee, 46, and Ruth Gee, 39, were found dead in their Beason home Sept. 21 with their children, 16-year-old Justina Constant, 14-year-old Dillen Constant and 11-year-old Austin Gee. Police have said they were killed by blunt force trauma preceded by a “violent struggle.” A 3-year-old daughter was found alive but seriously injured. Debbie Harris said her stepson had a good relationship with the Gee family, frequently dropping off his own children for the day. “There is no motive here,” she said. “There was no reason. This is why we are in shock.” Police not only searched Chris

Harris’ home, Debbie Harris said, they also search hers and the home of another stepson — testing bathtubs and cars for traces of blood. She said they found none. “Everything’s come up empty-handed,” she said. “Nothing adds up.”

Authorities have offered few details about Harris’ arrest, including a possible motive. Friday, Harris appeared in Logan County court in black-and-white striped prison garb and replied “yes, sir” twice to questions from the judge, who appointed a public defender. Harris sat through the hearing with his head bowed.

Logan County Sheriff Steven Nichols has said officers recovered a gray pickup truck they had been seeking after it was spotted in Beason around the time of the killings. A truck matching the description of the one authorities sought was parked outside Nicole Gee’s house for days after the murder.

Debbie Harris said authorities removed her stepson’s truck in the middle of this week.

Funeral services for the family



Tazwell County Emergency Service and Disaster Agency members look for a weapon or clues in a soybean field in Beason, Ill., Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2009, after five members of a family were found slain in their home. A search is still under way for a suspect.

(AP Photo/Seth Perlman)

were held Monday. Hundreds of relatives recall them as kind, of friends and acquaintances simple people with warm attended and heard the Gees’ hearts. □

Texas jury convicts handyman of 2 slayings in ‘07

AUSTIN, Texas — A handyman accused of killing six people in a cross-country spree was convicted Friday in two of the deaths, and could face the death penalty.

Paul Devoe, 46, was accused of killing five people in Texas and one in Pennsylvania in August 2007. The jury deliberated for less than 30 minutes before finding him guilty of capital murder in the deaths of two teenage girls.

The girls’ family members, who were holding hands before the verdict was read, cried, smiled and nodded when the verdict was announced. Prosecutors say Devoe fatally shot 41-year-old Michael Allred at the bar he worked at in Marble Falls, then drove to the home of his ex-girlfriend, Paula Griffith, in Jonestown and shot her, her 48-year-old boyfriend, Jay Feltner, her daughter, Haylie Faulkner and Hensley, a friend of Haylie’s.

Travis County prosecutor Gary Cobb said he was happy with the verdict.

“Having somebody like that be found guilty and be assured that he will never be allowed to hurt anybody again gives me a great degree of personal satisfaction,” Cobb said.

Devoe is only on trial for the girls’ killings. It’s common in Texas for prosecutors to split

multiple charges into separate trials. Prosecutors can still seek trials for the remaining killings.

The punishment phase of the trial begins Monday. Jurors will decide whether to give Devoe the death penalty or life in prison without parole.

Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty for the deaths of 15-year-old Haylie Faulkner and 17-year-old Danielle Hensley.

“We clearly think he deserves the death penalty and that’s why we’re seeking it,” Cobb said.

Earlier this week, a witnesses testified that Devoe told him that night he’d gone to the bar to kill another ex-girlfriend, but his gun jammed and the bartender got in his way.

Prosecutors say after the killings, Devoe fled Texas for Long Island, N.Y., where he grew up and where his mother lived. They say he had car trouble near State Line, Pa., shot and killed 81-year-old widow Betty Jane Dehart and stole her car.

Devoe, who had worked as a handyman on painting and carpentry jobs, was arrested in Shirley, N.Y., on Aug. 27, 2007. He spent several weeks in a Texas psychiatric hospital before being declared competent for trial in March. □

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Republicans visit Honduras despite US coup policy



Supporters of Honduras' ousted President Manuel Zelaya chant slogans against the interim government outside the US embassy in Tegucigalpa, Thursday, Oct. 1, 2009. The 47-nation U.N. Human Rights Council unanimously endorsed on Thursday a proposal by Latin American countries calling for an immediate end to all human rights violations and for the restoration of Zelaya's government.

(AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)

By BEN FOX,
Associated Press Writer

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras — Four U.S. Republican lawmakers met with Honduras' interim president on Friday in a challenge to Washington's condemnation of the coup that brought him to power.

The brief, amicable visit with the leaders of the coup that ousted President Manuel Zelaya highlights a divide in Washington, where the Obama administration is working to reinstate Zelaya but many conservatives side with the government installed after soldiers arrested the president in his pajamas and flew him into exile.

South Carolina Sen. Jim DeMint, the leader of the delegation, said before the trip that even calling Zelaya's overthrow a coup is "ill-informed and baseless."

DeMint and three representatives — Aaron Schock and Peter Roskam of Illinois and Doug Lamborn of Colorado — smiled for photographs in a book-lined office of the stately presidential palace with interim President Roberto Micheletti. They slipped out of the palace through a rear entrance, avoiding dozens of journalists waiting for a planned news conference that never materialized.

The delegation met with the major candidates in Nov. 29 elections that many call illegitimate, and with Supreme Court justices who are deciding whether Micheletti had the constitutional right to suspend civil liberties.

They did not meet with Zelaya, who is holed up with dozens of supporters in the Brazilian Embassy after sneaking back into Honduras. Nations around the globe have condemned Zelaya's June 28 ouster and many, including the United States and the European Union, have suspended aid to Honduras. Washington has also revoked the U.S. visas of interim leaders.

Republicans argue the actions were a legitimate reaction to Zelaya's attempt to hold a constitutional referendum that critics believed was an attempt to undo a prohibition on a second term. Zelaya denies that was his intention.

Many conservative American politicians see Micheletti as a bulwark against the expansion of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's socialist programs in Latin America.

It's not unusual for members of the U.S. Congress to visit shunned governments. Quite a few have visited Cuba in recent years, and both Republicans and Democrats visited Nicaragua when its Sandinista government was at odds with Washington.

But critics argue the visit by Republicans undermines international efforts to restore Zelaya to power just as both sides seem ready to negotiate. Amid mounting concerns about human rights abuses, the interim leaders are under increasing pressure from home and abroad to break the three-month stalemate paralyzing the impoverished country.

"I think that this trip potentially will muddy the waters even more, and that would not be constructive," said Joy Olson, executive director of the Washington Office on Latin America, which promotes human rights and democracy. "The danger of this visit is that those supporting the Micheletti government re-entrench."

Micheletti has become increasingly alienated at home after his administration imposed an emergency decree this week suspending some civil liberties, including freedom of the press and freedom of assembly. He promised to lift the decree after being criticized by his own supporters as going too far, but has yet to do so.

Differences over Honduras also are affecting President Barack Obama: DeMint has been blocking Senate votes on Arturo Valenzuela, Obama's nominee to be assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs, and Thomas Shannon, his nominee for U.S. ambassador to Brazil.


"Thanks to DeMint's intransigence, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee can't hold hearings to receive testimony from the most knowledgeable and relevant witnesses on our policy in Central and South America," Democratic Sen. John Kerry said in a news release.

Florida Congressman Connie Mack, the ranking Republican on the U.S. House Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, was the first U.S. lawmaker to visit Honduras after the coup. He led a congressional delegation that met with Micheletti in July.


Mack has been an outspoken critic of the U.S. government's actions, such as revoking the visas of interim leaders, saying that Hondurans "don't want us to stand with the 'thugocrats' of the Western Hemisphere like Hugo Chavez."

U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, another ranking Florida Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, plans to head to Honduras next week.

A delegation from the Organization of American States, which has taken the lead in pushing for a negotiated resolution that restores Zelaya to power, was expected to arrive later Friday. □



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PG	FAME	daily: 4:00 6:15 8:45	
	matinee: 1:30	late show: 11:15	
R	FINAL DESTINATION 4	daily: 8:00 10:00	
	matinee:	late show: 12:00	
PG	SUSKE & WISKE	daily: 5:00	NEW
	matinee: 12:45 3:00	late show:	
R	WHITEOUT	daily: 5:15 7:30 9:45	
	matinee: 12:45 3:00	late show: 12:00	
PG	CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS	daily: 4:00 6:00	
	matinee: 12:00 2:00	late show:	

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R	ZOMBIELAND	daily: 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00	NEW
	matinee: 12:00 2:00	late show: 12:00	
PG-13	SURROGATES	daily: 6:30 8:45	NEW
	matinee: 1:15 3:45	late show: 11:45	
R	JENNIFER'S BODY	daily: 4:45 7:00 9:15	
	matinee: 12:15 2:30	late show: 11:30	
PG-13	TYLER PERRY'S I CAN DO BAD ALL BY MYSELF	daily: 8:30	
	matinee:	late show: 11:15	
PG	CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS	daily: 4:15 6:15	
	matinee: 12:15 2:15	late show:	
PG-13	G.I. JOE: THE RISE OF THE COBRA	daily: 6:00 7:15	
	matinee: 12:30 3:30	late show:	
R	FINAL DESTINATION 4	daily: 8:15 10:00	
	matinee:	late show: 11:45	
R	WHITEOUT	daily: 5:15 7:30 9:45	
	matinee: 12:45 3:00	late show: 12:00	

Matinee: sat & sun | Late show: fri & sat

INDONESIAN QUAKE
Continued from Page B1

Her rescue Friday was a rare tale of survival two days after a massive Indonesian earthquake killed at least 715 people and left nearly 3,000 missing under the rubble of tens of thousands of buildings.

The wail of ambulances and the stench of decomposing bodies met volunteers from dozens of relief agencies Friday as they poured into the worst-hit area around the regional capital of Padang.

Block after block of toppled hotels, hospitals, office buildings and schools had yet to be searched and dozens of unclaimed corpses were laid out in the scorching sun at Dr. M. Djamil General Hospital, Padang's biggest, which was damaged in the quake.

Wednesday's 7.6 magnitude temblor devastated a stretch of more than 60 miles (100 kilometers) along the western coast of Sumatra island, prompting a massive international aid operation in a country where earthquakes have taken a huge human toll in recent years.

The United Nations estimates that the death toll from this quake could rise to 1,100. More than 20,000 houses and buildings were destroyed and 2,400 people hospitalized across seven districts, said Priyadi Kardono, a spokesman for the national disaster agency.

Fuel was being rationed amid a power outage, water and food were in short supply and villagers dug out the dead with their bare hands, witnesses and aid agencies said.

Contrasting that grim picture of grief and destruction, 19-year-old Virgo, an English major sophomore, was found alive under the rubble of her college in Padang, the Foreign Language School of Prayoga. "Her dead friends were beneath and above her. Fortunately, she was able to withstand the stench for 40 hours," said Dubel Mereyenes, the doctor who treated her. "She has a severely injured leg, but we will try to avoid amputation." Another survivor was a teacher at the same school, Suci Ravika Wulan Sari,

who was extracted from the debris almost exactly 48 hours after the college crumbled in the 5:16 p.m. quake, killing dozens of students.

"She was conscious. Only her legs and fingers are swollen because she was squeezed," said the institute's director, Teresia Lianawaty. "Thank God! It is a miracle."

Elsewhere in the city, at the site of the former Ambacang Hotel where as many as 200 were feared trapped, rescue workers detected signs of life under a hill of tangled steel, concrete slabs and broken bricks of the five-story structure, said Gagah Prakosa, a spokesman of the rescue team. "We heard some voices of people under the rubble, but as you can see the damage is making it very difficult to extricate them," Prakosa said, as a backhoe cleared the debris noisily.

As the scale of the destruction became clearer, Vice President Jusuf Kalla told reporters in the capital, Jakarta, that the recovery operation would cost at least \$400 million because the "impact of this disaster has worsened."

Military and commercial planes shuttled in tons of

emergency supplies, although rural areas remained cut off from help due to landslides that reportedly crushed several villages and killed nearly 300 people.

Swiss teams sent in dogs to help locate anyone who may still be alive, but by nightfall had not found anyone alive.

While the damage was most severe around Padang, a port city of 900,000, an Associated Press reporter saw virtually no remaining structures in the rural, hilly district of Pariaman, a community of about 370,000 people about 50 miles to the north.

Landslides had wiped away roads and there was no sign of outside help, leaving locals on their own to clear roads of landslides and dig out bodies. Officials said more than 10,000 homes and buildings had been destroyed there. It was unclear how many died. At a makeshift center for the homeless, dozens took shelter under a 15-by-30 foot canopy donated by a local business.

"We don't know where else to go," said Charlie, a local resident, who like many Indonesians uses a single name. "We need food and



Indonesian rescue team pulled out a survivor, Suci Ravika Wulan Sari, who was trapped in a building since Wednesday's earthquake in Padang, Indonesia on Friday, Oct. 2, 2009. Two days after the quake that toppled thousands of buildings on Sumatra island, stricken residents in a district north of the hard-hit city of Padang, had yet to receive help.

(AP Photo/Wong Maye-E)

tents, but we haven't gotten any help yet."

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono told a crowd of people whose relatives are missing to "please be patient," assuring them the government was doing everything in its power to save lives.

"What can we do?" asked Rusdi Idram, burying his 25-year-old son Friday at a public Islamic cemetery as his wife stood by sobbing. "That was his fate. We have to accept and just surrender to Allah."

Millions of dollars in aid and

financial assistance came from Australia, Britain, China, Germany, Japan, the European Union, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland, Denmark and the United States, Indonesian officials said. Indonesia sits on a major geological fault zone and experiences dozens of quakes every year. Wednesday's quake originated on the same fault line that spawned the 2004 Asian tsunami that killed 230,000 people in a dozen nations. □

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Israel, Palestinians buoyed by video-prisoner swap



In this image taken from a video released by Hamas Friday Oct. 2, 2009, shows Israeli soldier Sgt. Gilad Shalit held captive for more than three years in the Gaza Strip. Scakit said in the video that he is being treated well by his Palestinian captors and sends his love to his parents.

(AP Photo/Hamas Video, via APTN)

By Douglas Hamilton

JERUSALEM (Reuters) – An Israeli soldier held captive for the past three years by the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas smiled briefly and looked healthy in a two-minute Hamas video handed over to Israel on Friday. Gilad Shalit, abducted in 2006, was shown holding up a copy of the Arabic-language newspaper “Palestine” dated September 14, in a classic “proof of life” gesture by Hamas in return for the release of 20 Palestinian women from prison in Israel. Wearing olive fatigues and seated in a plastic chair

against a white background, the 23-year-old soldier read out a statement in Hebrew. His voice was subdued but he appeared calm and healthy. He was clean-shaven and his hair was trimmed. In the video, released to broadcasters, he said he was being “treated excellently” by his captors. “I have been hoping and waiting for a long time for the day I will be released, and hope that the current government headed by Benjamin Netanyahu will not now waste the opportunity to conclude the deal,” he said. He peered over the blue-

bannered top of the newspaper as the camera zoomed in for a close-up to show the masthead and date.

Shalit’s father, Noam, later read a statement to reporters saying the family expected Netanyahu “to bring about Gilad’s release as speedily as possible regardless of today’s confirmation of him being alive.”

CHEERS FOR PRISON BABY

The video was handed over in exchange for Israel’s release of Palestinian women serving jail terms under two years.

One prisoner, the only one released to Gaza, brought home a 20-month-old boy born in prison.

Hundreds of people waving the green Hamas flag, the black banners of Islamic Jihad and Palestinian national colors joined a vehicle convoy as it entered Gaza City, sirens blaring.

The baby was snatched from Fatima al-Zaq’s arms in a media frenzy and borne overhead to Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, who held him up wailing in front of the crowd.

“We feel wonderful,” said her husband Mohammed, a member of Islamic Jihad. “People are celebrating with us, from all factions ...

the prisoners’ release unites us.”

There were also welcome parties in the West Bank, run by Hamas’s rival Fatah, as the factions briefly set aside their struggle for control of the Palestinian national movement.

President Mahmoud Abbas, of Fatah, greeted the women with flowers. And in Gaza, Haniyeh told the crowd welcoming Fatima and Youssef al-Zaq: “I see the Palestinian people today united behind this step.”

He said he hoped the swap would be “a step on the way to freeing our men and women prisoners from occupation jails (and) a step toward Palestinian reconciliation.”

N E T A N Y A H U “ENCOURAGED”

The exchange with Hamas, brokered by German and Egyptian diplomacy, is seen as a step toward a major Palestinian prisoner release and freedom for Shalit, priorities for both sides since his capture in a cross-border raid in June 2006.

“Although the path to his release is still long and difficult, the knowledge that he is healthy encourages us all,” Netanyahu was quoted as saying by his spokesman Nir Hefetz.

“The primeminister believes the video is important because it confirms Gilad Shalit’s condition and places total responsibility for Gilad’s well-being on Hamas,” Hefetz added.

Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman later told Channel 1 television in an interview that the “government will do

everything in order to release Gilad Shalit in a considered, wise and responsible manner.”

Many Palestinians have relatives or friends among the more than 10,000 Palestinians imprisoned in Israel; and many Israeli families whose sons and daughters serve in the conscript army identify readily with Shalit’s parents.

Shalit served in a tank unit and was captured when Hamas gunmen tunneled into Israel from Gaza and killed two of his fellow soldiers. Two attackers were also killed.

“I want to send regards to my family and to tell them that I love them and miss them very much and yearn for the day that I will see them again,” he said in the video.

Referring to a photograph his family could quickly identify, he asked if his father and two siblings “remember the day you arrived at my base on the Golan Heights on 31-12-2005.”

“We did a tour around the base and you photographed me on a Merkava tank,” Shalit said. “I want to tell you that I am feeling well in terms of health and that the mujahideen from the Izz-el-Deen-al-Qassam brigades are treating me excellently. Shalit’s parents had until now had received only a few letters and an audio tape from their son, who has not been allowed Red Cross visits. They have campaigned unrelentingly for his freedom but made no statement on Friday. □



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Warsaw ghetto uprising leader Edelman dies at 90

By MONIKA SCISLOWSKA,
Associated Press Writer

WARSAW, Poland — Marek Edelman, the last surviving leader of the ill-fated 1943 Warsaw ghetto revolt against the Nazis, died Friday at the age of 90.

Edelman died of old age at the family home of his friend Paula Sawicka, where he had lived for the past two years.

“He died at home, among friends, among his close people,” Sawicka told The Associated Press.

Most of Edelman’s adult life was dedicated to the defense of human life, dignity and freedom. He fought the Nazis in the doomed Warsaw ghetto revolt and later in the Warsaw city Uprising. And then for decades he fought communism in Poland.

His heroism earned him the French Legion of Honor and Poland’s highest civilian distinction, the Order of the White Eagle.

Former Israeli ambassador to Poland Shevach Weiss paid tribute to Edelman.

“He will remain in my memory as a fighting hero, a man of great courage,” Weiss said. “He never ceased in his struggle for human freedom and for Poland’s freedom.”

The uprising at the Warsaw ghetto was the first act of large-scale armed civilian resistance against the

Germans in occupied Poland during World War II.

One of the few survivors of three weeks of uneven struggle in the Warsaw ghetto, Edelman felt obliged to preserve the memory of the fallen heroes of that first large-scale Jewish revolt against the Nazis. Each year, on the revolt’s anniversary, he laid flowers at Warsaw’s monument to the ghetto heroes, and called for tolerance.

“Remember them all — boys and girls — 220 altogether, not too many to remember their faces, their names,” he said of the young fighters in a 2008 interview with The Associated Press.

“Man is evil, by nature man is a beast,” he said then. Therefore people “have to be educated from childhood, from kindergarten, that there should be no hatred.”

He also felt obliged to appeal repeatedly to the world for freedom and peace — even when it had to be won in a fight.

“When you cannot defend freedom through peaceful means, you have to use arms to fight Nazism, dictatorship, chauvinism,” Edelman said in the 2008 interview in his apartment in the central city of Lodz, which was filled with portraits of Jews and of scenes reminiscent of the Holocaust.

He worked at a city hospital Lodz, almost to his last day.



FILE - In this April 5, 2003 file photo, Marek Edelman, 82, the only surviving commander of the Warsaw ghetto uprising against the Nazis, is seen during an interview with The Associated Press at his home in the central city of Lodz, Poland. Marek Edelman, the last surviving leader of WWII Warsaw Ghetto uprising, died Friday, Oct. 2, 2009 in Warsaw at the age of 90.

(AP Photo/Czarek Sokolowski, File)

Edelman was born Jan. 1, 1919 in Homel, which was then in eastern Poland and is now in Belarus. His family soon moved to Warsaw. □



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Rio de Janeiro wins right to host 2016 Olympics



COPENHAGEN — Finally, South America gets an Olympics. The 2016 Games are going to Rio de Janeiro. In a vote of high drama, the bustling Brazilian carnival city of beaches, mountains and samba beat surprise finalist Madrid, which got a big helping hand from a very influential friend.

Chicago was knocked out in the first round — in one of the most shocking defeats ever in International Olympic Committee voting. Even Tokyo, which had trailed throughout the race, did better — eliminated after Chicago in the second round.

Rio spoke to IOC members' consciences: the city argued that it was simply unfair that South America has never hosted the games, while Europe, Asia and North America have done so repeatedly.

"It is a time to address this imbalance," Brazil's charismatic president, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, told the IOC's members before they voted. "It is time to

light the Olympic cauldron in a tropical country."

The bearded former union leader disappeared into a huge group hug with the joyous Rio team after IOC president Jacques Rogge announced that the city won. Football great Pele had tears in his eyes.

Madrid's surprising success in reaching the final round came after former IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch made an unusual appeal for the Spanish capital, reminding the IOC's members as he asked for their vote that, at age 89, "I am very near the end of my time."

Samaranch ran the IOC for 21 years before Rogge took over in 2001.

Chicago had long been seen as a front-runner and got the highest possible level of support — from President Barack Obama himself. But he only spent a few hours in the Danish capital where the vote was held and left before the result was announced. Former IOC member Kai Holm said that the brevity of his appearance may have counted



against him.

The short stopover was "too business-like," Holm said. "It can be that some IOC members see it as a lack of respect." Senior Australian IOC member Kevan Gosper surmised that Asian voters may have banded together for Tokyo in the first round, at Chicago's expense. "I'm shocked," Gosper said. "The whole thing doesn't make sense other than there has been a stupid bloc vote."

He worried that the shock exit could do "untold damage" to the already testy relations between the IOC and the U.S. Olympic Committee. They had recent flare-ups over revenue sharing and a USOC TV network.

"To have the president of the United States and his wife personally appear, then this should happen in the first round is awful and totally undeserving," Gosper said.

The European-dominated IOC's

last two experiences in the United States were marked by controversy: the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics were sullied by a bribery scandal and logistical problems and a bombing hit the 1996 Games in Atlanta.

The last U.S. city to bid for the Summer Games, New York, did scarcely better. It was ousted in the second round in the 2005 vote that gave the 2012 Games to London. □



Rio fans celebrate after their city made it through another round for the AP — Rio fans celebrate after their city made it through another round for the nomination of host city for 2016 Olympics.

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San Francisco Giants will bring back Bochy, Sabean

SAN FRANCISCO – The San Francisco Giants are close to finalizing new deals for general manager Brian Sabean and manager Bruce Bochy, according to a person with knowledge of the situation.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because details were still being worked out and the club hadn't made a formal announcement. That could come as soon as this weekend but more likely on Monday during Bochy and Sabean's customary after-season address.

"I can't (confirm it)," Bochy said after the Giants beat Arizona 7-3 on Thursday in their final home game. "We have three more games and that's my focus. I'm under contract."

A call to Sabean wasn't immediately returned.

Sabean received a two-year extension in 2007 that took him through this year and the Giants had to exercise a club option for 2010. Bochy's three-year contract worth roughly

\$6 million is due to expire at the end of the season.

The Giants will miss the playoffs for the sixth straight season but were in the NL wild card race until being eliminated Wednesday night, certainly a sign of progress to new managing partner Bill Neukom.

Everything pointed to both Bochy and Sabean staying in San Francisco — and both were cautiously optimistic about it. Neukom has been around regularly and both Bochy and Sabean have been involved in meetings regarding next season. The Giants will snap a streak of four straight losing seasons.

Neukom has said all along he would address the status of Bochy and Sabean after the season.

After an interview with AP on Saturday, Sabean headed into a meeting with Neukom. This was Sabean's 13th year as San Francisco's GM and he guided the Giants to the 2002 World Series as the wild card and NL



San Francisco Giants manager Bruce Bochy, left, watches from the dugout rail.

West crowns in 1997, 2000 and '03, their last year in the playoffs.

Sabean has taken heat at times for signing players to big contracts like pitcher Barry Zito's \$126 million, seven-year deal through 2013 with a club option for 2014, and a \$60 million, five-year contract for center fielder Aaron Rowand done in December 2007. The acquisition of Freddy Sanchez from Pittsburgh on July 29 ended up a disappointment

just because Sanchez couldn't stay on the field because of injuries. Neukom ultimately took into account the Giants were in the playoff chase this year when many thought they would be out of contention much earlier. With a 52-29 final home record, they drastically improved from last year's 37-44 at AT&T Park. Also, San Francisco's farm system has made significant strides — producing reigning NL Cy Young Award winner

Tim Lincecum, slugger Pablo Sandoval and top prospects and September callups in catcher Buster Posey and pitcher Madison Bumgarner. This job has been a transition for Bochy, managing a young club committed to rebuilding in the post-Barry Bonds era. The 54-year-old Bochy went 143-181 in his first two seasons as Giants skipper but is 86-73 this season heading into a season-ending series at San Diego this weekend. □

Injured Nadal to return at China Open

BEIJING (AFP) – World number two Rafael Nadal will return to action at the China Open next week after medical tests cleared him to play.

The Spaniard withdrew from this week's Thailand Open due to a stomach injury but a statement on his website said he would be fit for Beijing.

"Based on the medical tests done in Barcelona, Rafa Nadal will return to competition next week," the statement said. "After long hours of tedious exams, it was concluded that Rafa is physically fit for competition."

Nadal is expected in Beijing Thursday and will follow that tournament by playing the Shanghai Masters, the Masters in London and finally the Davis Cup.

The China Open is a joint WTA/ATP event and will be the first played at the Olympic Green Tennis Centre in Beijing since the Olympics last year, where Nadal won the men's singles gold medal. □

NBA prohibits use of Twitter, Facebook during games

NEW YORK (AFP) – The National Basketball Association is initiating new social media guidelines for its players, banning the use of web sites like Twitter and Facebook during games.

League officials sent a memo to all 30 teams on Wednesday announcing the guidelines for the proper use of social media sites by the players, coaches and front office workers.

"During games, the use of cell phones, PDAs, other electronic communication devices, and social media or networking sites (including Twitter, Facebook and other sites and services)

by coaches, players and other team basketball operations personnel is prohibited," said a portion of the memo obtained by AFP.

The memo states that the ban will be in place 45 minutes before the start of each game and last until the post-game media interviews are finished.

The announcement also stated teams "are free to adopt their own rules relating to the use of electronic communication devices and social media sites and services during practices, meetings and other team events." □



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Panthers sign veteran DT Thomas, release Harris

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Hollis Thomas, Carolina's latest attempt to fill its giant hole at defensive tackle, had just finished his first practice with the Panthers Thursday when he was asked what he would bring to his new team.

Standing with his helmet off and his belly spilling over the top of his pants, the 6-foot, 340-pound Thomas didn't hesitate.

"A little levity, a little thickness in the middle," he replied.

Winless and desperate to find anybody to help stop the run, the Panthers were willing to take a chance with the 35-year-old portly humorist. A day after he was released by St. Louis, the Panthers signed the 14-year veteran and released rookie Ra'Shon Harris.

"He's got a lot of experience. I think right now we're young there," coach John Fox said. "He's played the game at this level for some time. A lot of this is how to play. I think he'll help us immensely in that area."

Thomas is the latest to pass through Carolina's tackle turnstile since top run-

stuffer Maake Kemoeatu ruptured his Achilles tendon less than 30 minutes into the first practice of training camp.

The Panthers first alternated second-year pro Nick Hayden and undrafted rookie Marlon Favorite at that nose tackle spot. Neither was effective and Favorite was waived in final cuts.

The team then claimed the undrafted Harris off waivers from Pittsburgh. That came after the Panthers acquired Louis Leonard from Cleveland for a 2010 late-round draft pick.

Leonard started Carolina's Week 2 loss to Atlanta, but broke his ankle on the final defensive play of the game and was lost for the season. Hayden, who has been slowed with a toe injury, was back as the starter Monday in Dallas, when the Cowboys rushed for 212 yards despite being without Marion Barber.

Through three weeks and three losses, the Panthers are allowing 182.7 yards rushing per game, 29th in the NFL.

So they turned to Thomas,



FILE AP - This is an Aug. 2, 2009, file photo showing St. Louis Rams defensive tackle Hollis Thomas during a game.

who spent his first 10 seasons in Philadelphia as an on-and-off starter. He was then traded to New Orleans where he spent three seasons, interrupted by a four-game suspension

in 2006 for testing positive for a banned substance.

Thomas visited with the Panthers in the middle of last season as he recovered from a torn triceps before the Saints re-signed him. He then signed with St. Louis in the offseason.

Thomas left one 0-3 team to join another. But this club is in dire need of an effective, veteran tackle. A colorful distraction won't hurt, either.

"Everybody won't be focusing on the other fat guys," Thomas said. "They'll focus on the new fat guy." □

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DRIVE

Sudamérica celebra triunfo Brasil Olimpiadas

LIMA (Reuters) - Sudamérica felicitó el viernes a Brasil luego de que Río de Janeiro ganara la sede de los Juegos Olímpicos del 2016 y consideró que podría ser una oportunidad para desarrollar el turismo y recibir a millones de visitantes en la región.

El Comité Olímpico Internacional (COI) anunció a Río de Janeiro como sede de los Juegos luego de una ronda final en la que venció a Madrid. Chicago y Tokio habían quedado fuera de la carrera en instancias previas.

“Ha sido una noticia súbita, pero maravillosa para nosotros”, dijo el presidente peruano, Alan García, en la embajada de Brasil en Lima, a donde acudió luego de conocer la designación de la nueva sede olímpica.

“Tenemos a la mano a millones de visitantes en Sudamérica y vamos desde ahora a prepararnos para recibirlos”, afirmó.

El anuncio, que convierte a Río de Janeiro en la primera ciudad sudamericana en ser sede de unos Juegos, generó una fiesta en Brasil y el

presidente brasileño, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, hasta lloró emocionado por el triunfo.

García señaló que desde ya se pondrá a trabajar para que todos los ciudadanos del mundo que vayan a Brasil hagan escala en Perú, antes o después de las olimpiadas, para visitar lugares como Machu Pichu, el ícono del turismo del país. “Este va ser la ‘mais grande olimpiada do mundo’”, dijo.

En Chile, la presidenta Michelle Bachelet saludó también la designación de Brasil, la mayor economía de la región.

“Quiero compartir una alegría grande”, dijo a periodistas.

“Ustedes saben que había muchos países peleando por ser sede de los Juegos Olímpicos. Qué bueno que Brasil ganó y, por tanto, en nuestra América Latina se van a hacer los Juegos Olímpicos 2016”, agregó Bachelet.

El mandatario venezolano, Hugo Chávez, un aliado del presidente Lula, también aplaudió el triunfo brasileño. □



El presidente de Brasil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, seca sus lágrimas durante una conferencia de prensa en Copenhague, 2 oct 2009. REUTERS/Pawel Kopczynski

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